MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
J. L. BOYD, Custodian
P. O. BOX 392 ⁘ CLINTON, MISS.

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

COLDWATER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—WHICH CONVENED WITH THE—

STATE LINE BAPTIST CHURCH,

OLIVE BRANCH, DESOTO COUNTY, MISS.

OCTOBER 14 TO 16, 1897.

OFFICERS.

T. C. DOCKERY ..... Moderator.
W. P. OZMENT ..... Clerk.
J. J. DUBOISE ..... Treasurer.

NEXT MEETING.

Eudora Baptist Church at Eudora, Miss.

Introductory Sermon ..... J. A. LEE.
Alternate ..... M. J. DERRICK.

SENATOBIA, MISS.,
DEMOCRAT BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
NOVEMBER, 1897.

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MINUTES

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1897.

The Fifty-sixth annual session of the Coldwater Baptist Association convened with the State Line Baptist Church, at Olive Branch, DeSoto County, Mississippi, Thursday, October 14, 1897, at 10 a. m.

Elder N. W. P. Bacon, former moderator, called the body to order, after which Elder H. J. Legge read the 90th Psalm and Elder T. J. Carter led in prayer.

The address of welcome was delivered by Elder J. A. Lee and the response by Elder W. I. Hargiss. "Jesus Lover of My Soul" was then feelingly sung.

Prayer by A. A. Lomax, of the Oxford Association.

Introductory sermon by Elder J. E. Barnett, from Deuteronomy 33d and 27th. Closing prayer by Elder N. W. P. Bacon. Closing song, "Stand up for Jesus." Adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association was called to order promptly at 2 p. m. by the temporary moderator. Singing by the choir, followed by prayer by J. W. Alford.

Letters from the churches were read by Brethren H. A. Duboise and W. P. Ozment, after which the association proceeded to permanent organization; electing T. C. Dockery moderator, W. P. Ozment clerk, and J. J. Duboise treasurer. The Moderator on taking the chair returned his thanks to the body and announced the association ready for business.

Moderator appointed on finance committee W. W. May, H. W. McKinnon and J. C. Droke.

Committee on Devotional Exercises, J. A. Lee, G. W. Potter and the deacon of the State Line Church.

H. A. Duboise offered the following resolution:

"That this body meet at 9 a. m.; adjourn at 12 m.; meet at 1:30 p. m.; adjourn at 4:30 p. m.; meet at 7 p. m. and adjourn at will."

The resolution was adopted. On motion adjourned till 7 p. m.

At 7 p. m. met pursuant to adjournment. Sermon by A. A. Lomax. Text, Acts 13th, 2d.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1897.

Met pursuant to adjournment. A scripture lesson was read by the Moder-

ator and the minutes of the first day's proceedings were read and approved.

Messengers and visitors from corresponding bodies were called for and received as follows.

Memphis Association.—T. V. Brady, P. H. Strickland and Brethren Allen and Moody. Oxford Association.—A. A. Lomax and W. I. Hargiss. Lebanon Association.—W. T. Lowry and B. R. Hughey. Yalobusha Association.—A. B. Rowe.

The following appointments as delegates and messengers to corresponding bodies were then made.

Memphis Association—G. W. Potter. Oxford Association—H. J. Legge, H. A. Duboise, D. G. Young and M. J. Derrick. Chickashay Association—A. G. Perry, G. W. Potter, A. N. Billingsley, H. J. Legge and D. G. Young. Tippah Association—G. W. Potter and B. M. Frazier. Sunflower Association—J. E. Barnett and M. J. Derrick. Yalobusha Association—H. A. Duboise, J. A. Lee and H. J. Legge. To the Baptist State Convention—N. W. P. Bacon, J. E. Barnett, W. W. Perry, G. W. Potter, J. A. Lee, J. W. Sturdivant, M. J. Derrick, J. W. Alford, H. J. Legge, T. C. Dockery, H. A. Duboise, F. Solomon and J. C. Droke. Southern Baptist Convention—A. G. Perry, delegate; J. A. Lee, alternate; elected by the body.

The report on Foreign Missions was read by J. E. Barnett and discussed by A. A. Lomax and A. V. Rowe, and adopted as follows:

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

I believe, if we love our Master, there is nothing that will give us more pleasure than doing His will. He has told us that it is His pleasure that we give this message of life to the whole world. A great part of the world today lies in heathen darkness. There are one billion two hundred and ninetysix million souls yet in heathen darkness. There are only 190 missionaries, counting the native assistance, to lead this great throng to a knowledge of Christ. These figures make the work look as if it could not be done, but under God we may lead these millions to the Christ.

There is a steady increase of workers and each year more and more of the lost are brought to the Savior. Last year 660 precious souls were saved. The darkness of heathenism is continually being driven back by the light of the gospel. Twenty years ago we only had 48 workers on the field. Today we have 190 missionaries and 4,324 members. There is an increase of interest in our homeland. Ten years ago we gave for Foreign Missions $80,830.33; last year we gave $125,681.99.

More people contribute to the cause of missions than ever before. Your committee would recommend that an effort be made to get every member of each church to contribute at least something to their Master's cause. Also that these contributions be made as early in the conventional year as possible, that so much of our means be not absorbed by interest. Last year we paid $2,160.34 interest on borrowed money that would not have been borrowed if we had made our contributions early in the year. The board began its year's work almost without debt. The 15th of September found them with a debt of $34,338.61. The contributions will now begin to flow in and the debt will be diminished. If we had made our contributions earlier we would not have been forced to make this debt and repeat the interest account. Submitted,

J. E. BARNETT.

The report on Home Missions was read by M. J. Derrick and after remarks by Elders Rowe and Allen was adopted as follows:

HOME MISSIONS.

In considering the work of Missions we look upon the field as being one—and world-wide. But for the sake of facility in doing the work we divide the field into Foreign, Home and State Missions, thus endeavoring to obey the command of the Master, "Go ye into all the world." Home Missions is properly the ba-

sis of all other Missionary and educational enterprises. If the roots of the tree are neglected the tree dies, and consequently you have no fruit.

Our Home Board did a grand work last year. The work was begun under unfavorable conditions, having a debt of $8,000.00 and an obligation to pay $5,700.00 on the house of worship purchased for the First Church in New Orleans, making a total of $13,700.00. Besides this the condition of the Foreign Missions Board led our secretary not to press the claims of the Home Board till the 1st of January, at which time the debt had grown to be about $23,000.00, not counting the $5,000.00 due the New Orleans house of worship. In the face of these obstacles our Home Board went to the Convention out of debt, having a balance of $220.03.

The Board had under its employ last year 372 missionaries, who did 11,075 weeks of labor; delivered 48,503 sermons and addresses; held 11,237 prayer meetings; made 62,175 religious visits; baptized 4,709; organized 313 Sunday Schools with 10,725 teachers and pupils; distributed 645,343 pages of tracts. Mississippi gave last year in cash $3,191.36; in boxes, $1,179.35, making a total of $4.370.71. She was aided by the board to the amount of $1,125.00. Besides this the Board has agreed to pay $1,000.00 and interest to the church at Jackson for five years, $2,000.00 of this amount is already paid. We are asked this year for $4,000.00. We recommend that the pastors of this Association urge the claims of this board, and that each church adopt some systematic plan by which each member of the church may be induced to contribute. Submitted,

M. J. DERRICK.

Sermon by W. T. Lowery at 11:15 a. m. Text, Luke 1st, 15th. Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Report on Publications was read recommending The Orphan Gem and The Baptist Layman. An amendment was offered to add the Baptist Record. After much discussion, and before a vote was taken, there was a motion and a second to recommit the report. Motion adopted. Report on Total Abstinence was read by Dr. J. W. Crawford, discussed by Elder Hughey, and adopted as follows:

TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

Much has been written upon intoxicants, and so much can be written, that I hardly know where to begin. You are aware of what has been done in legislature to prevent the sale of liquor; you have had the enormous expense account before you. You have been shown the drunkards' graves, whose estimate is near on to 100,000 yearly. You have visited the destitute homes and have heard the children cry for bread; you have often been told how a kind father has been transformed into a brute. Temperance lecturers and the doctors have informed you how intoxicants destroy both body and mind; the chemist has shown you alcohol is not a food, but a poison; you learn from nature that the Creator does not use it as an element of animal or vegetable growth. History tells you how it has been revelled in by kings and princes; tells you of the midnight feasts of Bachus; how, under its influence, kingdoms have crumbled and nations sunk into oblivion. This evil and many others have been brought prominently before your minds. If I were to expound Webster and Worcester I could not command language to express the sorrows which overshadow wives and mothers in this fair land, caused by the monster evil, drink. "No plummet line can measure the depth of sorrow that comes from the 250,000 saloons that find shelter and protection in our land." No writer can pen the pangs and poverty caused by one saloon where one man sells to others the damning poison which destroys all true joy and turns a golden world into a hell. Do you not begin to realize that the desire for some kind of a stimulant is universal? And in everyone there is a feeling or desire for something to give a sense of ease and contentment to both body and mind, and that this lack in our nature has been the curse of the great and the

small, the learned and the unlearned; and that its gratification by drink has been fostered by nobility, encouraged by science and tolerated, if not encouraged, by the church. Then why be astonished when you see some men drink? when they have inherited a propensity for a stimulant, and had that inheritance encouraged by association, and in many instances induced to do so by their medical adviser. (Just here, as a physician, I would like to say that, outside of the tinctures and extracts, liquor has no place in medicine.) Then we should know the individual who is so unfortunate as to become the subject of chronic alcoholism needs more your sympathy and charity than censure. No condition of life reduces one to more abject wretchedness than does the constant use of alcohol, or appeals to our sympathy in louder tones. The subject may have been a man of the strongest will power to begin with, but sooner or later it is all lost and the unfortunate one has no power to desist, notwithstanding during his sane moments he may desire ever so much to do so. Can you not accept it as a fact that the uncontrollable desire for a stimulant is a disease? and should be so treated before it is fanned into a blaze by the first drink.

The evil effects of intoxicants are too well known to need any farther comment. Then let us seek relief from this dreadful evil. Commence with moderate dram drinking—it is the foundation of every crime; the drunkard, the thief, the murderer, can all find the germ of their crimes in this circle. Fathers, set not this example before your boys. Let the millions of professed christians in America commence total abstinence themselves, and begin to teach in their homes, their children on the very threshold of life, the evils of drink as you would its earliest ideas. Let it know all, both moral and physical. Teach it there is but one safe-guard, and that is, "taste not, handle not." This teaching might extend to our schools and seminaries, our legislative halls and executive mansions, as well as to our churches. Respectfully submitted,

J. W. CRAWFORD.

EVENING SESSION.

The body assembled and was called to order at 7 p. m. After a song the Moderator announced the following committees to report at the next session of the Association:

Foreign Missions—Elder N. W. P. Bacon; Home Missions—Elder J. E. Barnett. State Missions—Elder J. A. Lee. Associational Missions—Elder H. A. Duboise. Publications—T. C. Dockery. Total Abstinence—Elder A. G. Perry. Ministerial Education—Elder G. W. Potter. Sunday School—Dr. T. A. Knight. Woman's Work—Elder H. J. Legge. Mississippi College—Elder M. J. Derrick. Sustentation—Elder A. N. Billingsley. Orphanage—Elder J. W. Sturdivant.

It was then announced, in some feeling remarks by A. V. Rowe, that our brethren at Clinton were under the dark overshadowing cloud of gloom and death, produced by the yellow fever; and suggested that we go humbly to our Heavenly Father, the Great God, in prayer on their behalf. The congregation bowee and was led in prayer by the venerable brother, Elder A. A. Lomax. After a song Elder J. A. Lee suggested that our coast counties were suffering under the dark scourge, our friends and brethren—dear Brother Brock and family among them—were among the afflicted; and that the God of mercies be appealed to especially in their behalf. Brother Lee then led the entire congregation in an earnest prayer, after which the business of the Association closed until Saturday, Oct. 16th, 9 a. m. A sermon was then preached by Elder A. V. Rowe, from the text "We would see Jesus."

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1897.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Called to order by the Moderator. Scriptural reading by Elder J. E. Barnet and prayer by Elder J W. Lee.

The Moderator appointed the following committee on location: J. C. Droke, G. T. Aiken and H. J. Legge.

The report on State Missions was read by J. W. Alford, and ably and instructively discussed by A. V. Rowe and W. T. Lowery. The report was adopted as read:

STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee on State Missions has the following to submit:

By State Missions we mean that particular part of our mission work comprehended within the State of Mississippi, and under the management of our Convention Board, located at Jackson, Miss. This work has been and is being pushed as vigorously as possible. The object being to have a pure gospel preached in every destitute locality in the state. The board has, as far as possible, placed men where they were most needed, and where the possibilities were the greatest, and from the information your committee has been able to gather he thinks their efforts have been wisely directed. The Delta, a field too long neglected, has received a due proportion of men and means. The Gulf Coast has also received due consideration, and what is known as the "Pine Hill Section" has not been neglected, while certain IMPORTANT SECTIONS in all, or quite all, of the associations in the State have received aid from the State Board. Some stations have been given up, as the board in its judgment, thought that the energy being expended upon them might be more wisely used at other points. Some have reached a point where the board deemed them sufficiently strong to stand alone, and in this they were not disappointed, while other points are still asking and receiving much needed aid from the board. While the board has, in some instances, met with discouragement, in the main the work has been successful and satisfactory. The greatest discouragement that confronts the board is occasioned by the fact that there are so many places that are asking for and actually needing aid, and the board has not the means necessary to supply the destitution.

This lack has not been occasioned by the fact that our people have not the ability to give the means, but from the fact, so far, they have not been induced to do so. Your committee believes that this state of affairs CAN be changed. But we must first have a deeper sense of our obligations to God on the part of the ministry and a consequent sense of obligation on the part of our laity. "Like priest, like people." Your commtttee is impressed, and will so state it as a part of this report, that the ministry, as a whole, are not making the sacrifice for the cause of Christ, generally, that is in keeping with their profession. He also believes that the laity CAN be induced to give if the ministry will by BOTH word and DEED set the example of consecration and liberality. Our contributions to State Missions is an index to our gifts to the other departments of our work, hence the necessity of an enthusiastic State Missions spirit on the part of the Baptist of Mississippi. The board has employed, for part or are all of their time, 90 missionaries and 4 colportuers during the year with the following results:

Missionaries, 90; Stations, 137; sermons preached, 3,850; baptisms (direct) 549; baptisms where missionaries labored, no meetings, 645; restored to fellowship, 89; received by letter, 429; churches organized, 13; churches built, 10. (For further information the reader is referred to the minutes of the State Convention.) With such visible evidences of God's grace as manifested in the above, we ought to double our efforts and push the work of State Missions until every destitute place shall have the gospel in its purity, and the Baptists alone are competent to do this. Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ALFORD.

A cash collection was then taken up for Brother Brock, amounting to $11.05.

Committee on nomination, through Elder H. A. Duboise, reported Longtown as the place of the next meeting of the association and Elder J. A. Lee to preach the introductory sermon; Elder M. J. Derrick, alternate. An amendment was made by Elder N. W. P. Bacon that the name Eudora be substituted for Longtown. The report was adopted as amended.

The report on Publications, after some changes, was again read by H. A. Duboise. Motion and second that the report be laid on the table indefinitely.

Motion adopted and report tabled.

The report on Education was read by J. A. Lee and adopted as follows:

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your committee begs leave to submit the following report: This is an educational age both as to theory and practice. There seems to be a universal thirst for education and there are more well equipped institutions whence this thirst may be quenched than at any other time in the world's history. The onward march of education with the populace creates a demand for educated leaders and teachers; and we rejoice to chronicle the death of that fogyism which says, "Education ruins the preacher." We stand for an educated ministry, because we believe it to be sustained by inspiration, but we would not be understood as teaching that a college education is requisite to preaching the gospel, for grand work has been ac omplished by brethren who were denied this privilege. The old dispensation had its schools of prophets, and Christ selected his apostles from John's disciples and put them in training for three and a half years before giving them their final commission. Paul's education made his enemy to say, "His letters are mighty and powerful," and as he reasoned on righteousness, temperance and judgment, Felix trembled on his judgment seat and Festus is made to say, "Much learning doth make thee mad." All honor to the noble men of God who have wrought so nobly without college education, but we pray the Lord to speed the day when all of his ministers may receive thorough training in heart, head and body.

We are thankful for our school at Clinton, with its able faculty and board of ministeral education, where our young preachers may receive help. We commend this school to the members of Coldwater Association, and to any young preacher who may be in its bounds.

We therefore recommend: First, that all of our ministerial students attend this school if possible; and, second, that all the churches in this association take a collection for ministerial education between this and the first of May and forward to Bro. George Whitfield, Clinton, Miss. Respectfully submitted,

J. A. LEE.

The report on Mississippi College, submitted by J. W. Sturdivant, was read by N. W. P. Bacou. It was moved that the plan of the State Convention be added to the report as an amendment, and J. A. Lee have charge of the amended plan. The report was then adopted.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

To the Baptist of Mississippi, Mississippi College needs no introduction nor recommendation. For forty-seven years it has been under the control of the denomination. The care of an over-ruling Providence has been so marked in all these years that no dark cloud in the future, whatever may be its magnitude, should discourage our people or cause them for one moment to with-hold their support and patronage. It is, as much as any other institution, a college in the true sense of the word, and the education it gives to the real student is both progressive and thorough. Those who have seen the student body from time to time attest that nowhere can a like number of young men be found of higher standing mentally and morally. The young men who go there are in earnest. They go with singleness of purpose and strive to accomplish that purpose. But much as the College is doing in educating the minds of young men like these, the christian influence that is brought to bear upon the student is well worth our notice. He whose mind only is educated may be little less than a devil. He whose mind is stored with knowledge, and whose heart is subdued by Divine grace, is one of God's grandest creatures. We had, last year, 39 who were preparing themselves for the ministry. Had it not been for the excitement that prevails, on account of yellow fever, that many, or more, would be at Clinton now. These young men will go like others in the past to preach Christ in all parts of the world.

That further endowment is the one thing that should be kept prominently before the Baptist of the State needs no argument. Your committee would recommend that we heartily endorse the plan of raising the fifty thousand dollars endowment fund, and that we support it by our prayers and with our money.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. STURDIVANT.

The report on Sunday Schools was read and discussed by A. G. Perry, and adopted as follows:

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Your committee on Sabbath School would say first that it is a matter of the deepest importance that every church should have a Bible school well organized for the training and cultivating of its membership up to a better knowledge of the Bible. And in so doing the church should endeavor to take in the whole membership, both old and young, as there are none too old or too wise to learn. All should join in this noble work; thu we should train ourselves and teach our children to learn to love and study the word of God. We should also reach out after others who are not connected with our churches, and endeavor to bring them under the influence of the word of God.

In regard to the literature to be used in a Sabbath School we would say the Bible should be the chief book to be used, but as the best help known to us, helping us to understand the Bible, we think is that literature fostered and recommended by the Southern Baptist Convention.

In regard to the amount of work being done in the Sabbath Schools in our Association at this time we will say, while we believe that all of our churches believe in having Sabbath Schools it is a deplorable fact that very few of them send up any report on this work. Thus it is very difficult to give any definite number of schools in the Associaton, therefore we do not attempt to give even an aggregate of teachers and pupils. About the best thing we have in the way of statistics will be found in the report on Sabbath School work made before the Southern Baptist Convention in Minutes 1897, page 104. The next best thing we have been able to find is the report made at our last State Convention, Minutes 1897, page 22. This report gives us a falling off, from 1896 to 1897, of about 800 from the Sunday school. While we have 90,000 white Baptist in the state we have only about 15,000 in the Sabbath Schools in the state. This is a deplorable condition in which we find our state, and we should remember that our Association is responsible for her part of the failure in this great work, that should rank next to that of preaching the gospel to a lost world.

Your committee earnestly recommends that all of our churches establish well organized Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. PERRY.

Adjourned 12 m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The report on Woman's Work was read by G. W. Potter and adopted as follows:

WOMAN'S WORK.

Many movements have begun with the best prospects which after years of trial have proven to be not only useless, but positively hurtful. But such has not been the case with woman's work as organized and conducted by our Southern Baptist women. Their work, from its start to the present moment, has been based upon and directed along Bible lines. As Baptists, our women are as jealous of Baptist doctrine and practice and adhering to scriptural plans of work as any of the male members of our churches. They have exercised as much caution and shown as much wisdom in their work as the best of our pastors and deacons. Almost without exception they have recognized the authority of the churches in which they have labored, and have shown themselves willing to accept the counsel of prudent and consecrated pastors. With the other members of the churches

they have sought and followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their work. This is all any of us could do, whether male or female. To many this department of our church work is of questionable wisdom. Women, the mother of all living, was created to be a helpmeet for man. Some churches seem to do their work better without any special organization for the female members. They prefer to work as a family—as one body—even the body of Christ. This organized work in Mississippi for the past two or three years, has been blessed of God. The report of the Central Committee of the State Convention shows the following contributions in cash: Foreign Missions $25,000,00; Home Missions $21,542.64; 358 boxes, valued at $21,475.08 have been given to our State, Home and Foreign Mission work. With this work our Savior is well pleased. Your committee on Woman's Work, having been unexpectedly put on this subject and not having time to collect full statistics, must of necessity give a meager report. We can not speak definitely of the work in this association for want of proper information. At your meeting in 1896 seven societies aggregating $258.20 and two Sunbeam Societies aggregating$54.18, amounting in all to $312.38, were reported. This report was signed byMiss Lizzie Mabry, president, and Miss Lizzie Roach, secretary. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. POTTER.

The report on Sustentation was also read by G. W. Potter, and adopted as read:

SUSTENTATION.

From the report of the Convention Board it will be seen that this cause sorely needs the consideration and help of our people. There has been a decrease in the last two years in the contributions, with a consequent increase of need in the homes of the beneficiaries of the fund. There are twelve names of old preachers and widows on the list of those being helped. The balance in the treasury at the Convention was $343.99, which was being held against the winter for distribution. The committee would urge the pastors of churches to a more thoughtful provision in this fund. Let not the pressing needs of the old preachers and the preacher's widow, who, with her husbands, shared privations in the building up of our cause, be last upon our hearts. Let us make, at least, such provisions for them as will drive away some of the poverty from their old age. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. POTTER.

The report on Orphanage was read by W. I. Hargiss and adopted as follows:

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ORPHANAGE.

BRETHREN:—It gives your committee special pleasure to report, that in the kind providence of a merciful God, the great friend of the orphan, the idea of an orphanage for the orphans of Mississippi Baptists, and others, was laid upon the heart of that man of God, Brother L. S. Foster, the originator and present superintendent of the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage, located at Jackson, Miss. It gives your committee additional pleasure to note the rapidly increasing interest that the Baptist of the State are taking in this most commendable enterprise. It was indeed encouraging to note the fact that twelve churches of this Association had contributed during the year to this work a total of $71.20.

The Board of Trustees have purchased 112 acres of land, well located in the suburbs of Jackson, Miss., at a cost of $2,000.00, which is estimated by competent judges to be worth $4,000.00, upon which the trustees purpose to build, just as soon as the lands have been fully paid for, and a sufficient fund is in hand for that purpose. We are happy to state that the indebtedness on the land is being rapidly liquidated, and that a building fund of several hundred dollars is in hand and good promises. At present a rented house is being used, which is altogether inadequate to the demands of the work. Children have been turned away for lack of room. This should not so be. The orphanage has been duly incorporated under the laws of the State, which empowers the board of trustees to legally hold property. The first contribution to this object was received from a good

sister, May 12, 1893, which formed the nucleus for the hundreds that have since been contributed. This sister has since passed to her reward, but, though dead, she yet speaketh. As a channel through which necessary information concerning the enterprise may be given its friends, about six months ago the publication of the "Orphanage Gem" was begun by the superintendent—issued monthly—at the nominal price of twenty-five cents a year. Upon the whole the movement seems to have upon it the stamp of Divine approval.

"Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Who will have a part in this God-honoring work? Let the words of the Divine Book be remembered, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor. He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again." Psalms 41:1—Proverbs 19:17. Prayerfully submitted,

W. I. HARGISS.

The report of the Finance Committee was read by W. W. May and adopted as follows:

FINANCE.

Your committee on Finance beg to make the following report:

We have received the amounts herewith shown as paid to us by the churches for the purposes stated, and have paid them to the treasurer and hold vouchers for the same:

Received for Foreign Missions	$137 35
For Home Missions	91 65
For State Missions	145 00
For Associational Missions	00 00
For Ministerial Education	5 50
For Mississippi College	00 00
For Minutes	51 75
For Orphanage	1 00
Total	$ 432 25

CREDIT.

By amount paid to Treasurer	$432 25

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. DROKE,
W. W. MAY,
H. W. McKINNON.

The report of the Treasurer was read by H. A. Duboise and adopted as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee:

For Foreign Missions	$137 35
For Home Missions	91 65
For State Missions	145 00
For Ministerial Education	5 50
For Minutes	51 75
For Orphanage	1 00
	$432 25

PAID OUT.

Clerk of Association	$20 00
Printing Minutes	31 75
A. V. Rowe	380 50
	$432 25

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. DUBOISE.

The following resolution was offered by Elder N. W. P. Bacon:

RESOLVED, That this Association endorse the action of our State Convention with reference to Martinism and Whitsittism.

On motion the resolution was adopted.

Elder M. J. Derrick then offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Association tender to this church, and friends in town and vicinity, their thanks for their cordial reception and entertainment, also to our Methodist brethren for the use of their house of worship.

A motion to adjourn was adopted. While singing "God be with You" the parting hand was given. The benediction was then pronounced by Elder A. G. Perry, and the Association was declared adjourned to meet with Eudora Baptist Church, Thursday, before the 3rd Lord's Day in October 1898.

ASSOCIATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Associational Executive Board was appointed as follows:

Alexandria—T H Hurdle,
Amaziah—S G Whitsell,
Bethel—J W Sturdivant,
Bold Springs—T A Dodson,
Byhalia—H A Duboise,
Center Hill—D H Harroway,
Central Coldwater—W R Dougherty,
Chulahoma—R L Tucker,
Coldwater—J C Fleming,
Ebenezer—J H Dolehite,
Eudora—L G Turley,
Evansville—T S Vinson,
Gray's Creek—H F Pitts,
Harmony—T S Henderson,
Hebron—J A Faulkner,
Hernando—N W P Bacon,
Hickory Grove—J U Poag,
Holly Springs—Z J Hill,
Hopewell—D L Frazier,
Longtown—F P Tate,
Looxahoma—A J Dickson,
Macedonia—T W Roberson,
McIvor—W C Lemaster,
Midway—J T Golf,
Mt. Manna—W L Droke,
Mt. Moriah—W T Holcomb,
Mt. Pisgah—B M Matthews,
Mt. Pleasant—J W Coopwood,
Mt. Zion—W J Self,
New Hope (La Fayette County.)—S P Perkins,
New Hope (Tate Co.)—D R Meadows,
New Prospect—J H Collins,
Oak Grove—T P Janney,
Peach Creek—E A Keating,
Philadelphia—W W Perry,
Pleasant Grove—W A Sisco,
Pleasant Hill—C A Henley,
Pleasant View—R M Freeman,
Salem—T J Henderson,
Sardis—J J Henderson,
Senatobia—J W Echels,
State Line—A Sandidge,
Strayhorn—S T Clayton,
Tyro—G T Aiken,
Union—D G Young,
Unity—J D Myers,
White Oak Grove—Jos. Merideth.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Alford J W—Collierville, Tenn.
Bacon N W P—Hernando, Miss.
Barnett J E—Coldwater, Miss.
Billingsley A N—Senatobia, Miss.
Carter T J—Cockrum, Miss.
Derrick M J—Como, Miss.
Duboise H A—Byhalia, Miss.
Echols J W—Senatobia, Miss.
Eddins W L—Chulahoma, Miss.
Floyd G W—Moscow, Tenn.
Gordon W M—Looxahoma. Miss.
Hargiss W I—Oxford, Miss.
Harral Jobe—Eudora, Miss.
Howard C C—Louisville, Ky.
Lee J A—Byhalia, Miss.
Lee J W—Grenada, Miss.
Legge H J—Sardis, Miss.
Lomax A A—Batesville, Miss.
Lowry W T—Blue Mountain, Miss.
Lusk W A—Buntyn, Tenn.
Metts N F—Burgess, Miss.
Miller E D—Holly Springs, Miss.
Nelson M G—Longtown, Miss.
Nicholas J D—Eudora, Miss.
Perry A G—Coldwater, Miss.
Potter G W—Olive Branch, Miss.
Rocket H W—Harrison, Miss.
Russom H B—Canaan, Miss.
Sisco J W—Red Banks, Miss.
Sturdivant J W—Senatobia, Miss.
Tyre J H—Cypress, Miss.

LICENTIATES.

Anderson C C—Waterford, Miss.
Bradley R H—Sardis, Miss.
Faulkner J E—Sardis, Miss.
McDaniel C A—Byhalia, Miss.
Moore Leon A—Clinton, Miss.
Price J A—Cypress, Miss
Solomon Ed—Senatobia, Miss.
Wilkinson Alna.

A collection was taken up for the benefit of Holly Springs Baptist Church amounting to $110.55, as follows:

State Line Church	$00 00	—— Fleming	
J W Sturdivant	10 00	F E King	1 00
J E Barnett and wife	10 00	Mrs. M E Solomon	1 00
—— Whitley	10 00	W W May	1 00
J W Lee	10 00	Dr. J W Crawford	1 00
Ebenezer	10 00	—— Bickers	1 00
M J Derrick	10 00	W W Perry	1 00
W W May for Hopewell	5 00	Z Hill	1 00
Dr. A L Emerson for Eudora	5 00	A G Perry	1 00
A M Cartwright	5 00	T J Carter	1 00
D G Young (Union)	5 00	—— Hurt	1 00
J A Lee	5 00	W P Ozment	1 00
W H McCargo	5 00	Cash, Hat Collection	1 00
Z H Nail	5 00		8 55
Ladies Society, Byhalia	2 50		
	2 50	Total	$110 55

EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

We find from the letters that 19 churches report an increase of membership of 160; 22 a decrease membership of 121, and two same as last year—a net gain of 39. Nineteen report Sunday Schools all the year; seven from six to nine months. Altogether report officers, teachers and scholars 1,300; 20 report regular weekly prayer meetings; eight Woman's Missionary Societies; 20 report regbeam Society. Twenty-eight report church property worth $35,170.00; four report homes for preachers valued at $[illegible].00. 4500

Forty-three churches have paid, for the maintainance of the different interests fostered by the association, about $1,700.00. Eleven churches report expenses paid $683.85; twenty-seven report pastor's salaries $4,615.00.

The church letters show $47.50 paid for minutes. The treasurer paid $51.75, a difference of $4.25. Who paid it?

Several churches did not state the amounts sent for State, Home and Foreign Missions separately, but sent the sum of the three and stated that it was for Missions. To fill out the table we divided these into three equal (nearly) parts and so filled out the table. We would suggest that the clerk of each church fill out the associational letter in full, putting the amounts opposite each item in plain figures or letters. Another suggestion is that the delegation be reduced and those elected who will attend. A number of churches would like to have the Association with them if they could take care of it.

CLERK.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.	Superintendent	Secretary.	Months.	Officers & Teachers.	Enroll-ment.	Attend-ance.	Expense.	Baptized.
Alexandria	J F Valentine	J P McCandless	12	5	37	20	$ 2 39	5
Bethel	Aubry Crawford	Bert Pardue	6	6	35	18	—	2
Byhalia	A C Russel	I D Dotson	12	6	61	29	11 38	6
Center Hill	J D Beasley	Miss Coopwood	12	—	—	—	—	-
Central Coldwater	J T L Cate	T J White	12	10	64	42	31 45	-
Ebenezer	T C Dockery	R N Anderson	12	4	35	20	—	5
Eudora				—	—	—	—	-
Hebron	J E Faulkner	H D Legge	9	6	26	20	—	-
Hernando	Hugh Foster	Hattie Whitley	12	9	65	50	24 00	3
Hickory Grove	J M Dean	Homer Dean	6	5	35	18	—	4
Holly Springs	E D Miller	S E Sheets	12	3	16	15	—	-
Hopewell	J N Gregory	W R Eason	12	5	110	45	11 25	7
Longtown	T Q Farmer		12	5	50	35	7 00	2
Macedonia	T J Carter	Geo Seymour	6	5	51	35	—	-
Mt. Manna	T A Knight	G M Hudspeth	12	7	68	33	11 36	4
Mt. Pisgah	B M Matthews	N B Collier	12	5	35	25	3 00	-
Mt. Zion	J B Bourland	E G Self	9	6	95	37	5 00	3
New Prospect	J A Smith	S H Harris	6	5	40	30	—	-
Oak Grove	T J Janney	Moris Oldenbury	12	6	41	20	6 00	-
Peach Creek	E H Keating		12	4	52	35	—	5
Pleasant Grove	R J Howard	Miss May Moore	12	6	23	20	3 10	-
Sardis	L F Rainwater	C Jones	12	8	50	30	—	1
Senatobia	J L Ham		12	12	85	45	20 00	1
State Line	J N Brown	J A McCargo	12	9	51	30	24 90	-
Union	J F Beatton		12	—	—	—	—	-
White Oak Grove	D G Coffman		12	4	25	15	3 50	2
				141	1150	667	$164 33	50

CHURCH AND COUNTY.	POSTOFFICE.	PASTOR.	DELEGATES.	Baptized	R'c'd by Let.	Restored.	Received by Statement.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Erased	Total Membership.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Mississippi College.	Ministerial Education.	So. Baptist Theological Seminary.	Sustentation.	For Orphans.	Money for Minutes.	Sundays of Meeting.	CLERK.
Alexandria, Marshall	Slayden's Crossing	H B Russom	R R Stone, T H Hurdle, J E Watkin, W G McDugle	19		1		4	9	1	1	112	$ 5.00	$	$	$ 17.74	$	$	$	$	$	$1.25	2	R P McCandless
Amaziah, Tate	Kirksey											53			16.00	12.50						.50	3	
Bethel, Tate	Coldwater	J W Sturdivant	J W Sturdivant, Barrett Thornton, W L Scott,	3	2							14	1.00									1.00	3	S A Hughey.
Bold Springs, DeSoto	Alpika	H A Duboise	T A Dodson, S A Hughey,	1	1		1	1	1	1		65	7.05	13.35		8 30				.71	2.40	2.00	2 4	L H Shinault.
Byhalia, Marshall	Byhalia	J A Lee	H A Duboise, R E Boswell,	7	7	1		7		1		58		5.50		5.50						1.25	1	D H Haraway.
Center Hill, DeSoto	Overpark	J W Lee	D H Haraway, T J Payne, Green Brigance,					1		1		93		87.65	76·55	58.50		50.00		5.00	8.00	2.50	1 3	W R Dougherty
Central Coldwater, Tate	Coldwater	J E Barnett	J E Barnett, J Callicott,					1		1		27	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.50						.75	3	
Chulahoma, Marshall	Chulahoma	G W Floyd	R L Tucker,	7	14	2						39		5.05	5.05	5.10						1.00	3	J C Fleming.
Coldwater, Marshall	Barton	J W Alford	R J Turner, W E Cooper, I H Turner;	10	1		1	3		1		112		15.00	15 00	15.00						2.00	3	R D Williams.
Ebenezer, DeSoto	Love's Station	N W P Bacon	Frank Solomon, Mrs M C Solomon, T C Dockery,	28	2		2	4				78		5.00		6.00		2.00				2.00	2	Louis Turley.
Eudora, DeSota	Eudora	J W Alford	John Henkle, L A Burral, Dr A L Emerson;		3	1			2	1		63	5 00			3.00						.70	4	T J Carwile.
Evansville, Tate	Strayhorn.	A N Billingsley	L S Vinson, J J Morris, David Smith,	3			8			2		32	3.00			1.35						1.00		W E McIntosh.
Gray's Creek, DeSoto	Sirene	A N Billingsley	H F Pitts, John Williams,	9		2		1	3			139				3.20						1·25	2	J H Sanders.
Harmony, Lafayette	Harmontown	N F Metts	T S Henderson, William Conard, A D Childress,			1	9		3			49	8.30		3.30	1.00				2.00	1.00	1.00	1	C W Legge.
Hebron, Panola	Sardis	H J Legge	H J Legge, J E Faulkner, D W Trammell,	4	5		1	2		1		72		60.00	66.00	100.00		10.00	10.00		11.25	2.00	2 4	L B Jones.
Hernando, DeSoto	Hernando	N W P Bacon	N W P Bacon, N M Whitley, Miss Jessie Moody,	5	2			11		5	1	96		3.75	3.75	8.85						.50	1	Dr J W Crawford
Hickory Grove, Tate	Eckles	M J Derrick	Dr J W Crawford, E E DeShazo, Oscar Dean,		1			2				41		8 00	7.20								1 3	J C Sheets.
Holly Springs, Marshall	Holly Springs	W T Lowry	Ben Milam, Mrs Mary Miller, J C Sheets,	8		1		3				133		18.00	18.00	18.00		5.50			7.75	2.00	2	J R Turley.
Hopewell, Tate	Arkabutla	M J Derrick	W W May, W R Eason, D L Frazier,	5	3			3	1	2		.79		9 80	1.00	64.21		1.00			10.40	1.30	2	B P Tate.
Longtown, Panola	Longtown	H W Rocket	G E Farmer, C V Sullivan, Miss Hattie Tate,					1	3	1		71	4.40		1.50	1.75				4.50	2.50	.60	2	A J Dickson.
Looxahoma, Tate	Looxahoma	H J Legge	A J Dickson, T J Gordon, R L Lyles,	1				7	3	3		71		2.00	2 00	4.25						.50	1	I H Carter.
Macedonia, DeSoto	Ingram Mill	G W Potter	T J Carter, T W Roberson, C A McDaniel,	2	10			3				70	4.15	1.25		1.25						1.00	2	R L Moore.
McIvor, Panola	Batesville	A N Billingsley	W A Allen, W A Mangrum, J S Peterson,	16	5	2	1	2		1		85	2.50	1.55	2.50	5.00					1.00	1.90	3	T A Knight.
Midway, Tate	Senatobia			10			1	2				76		5.50	5.75							.75	4	A S Quinn.
Mt. Manna, Tate	Coldwater	H J Legge	P A Jennings, J A Stevens, A G Perry, J C L Droke,					1	2			8	2.00		1.00	1.00				1.90		.25	4	B M Matthews.
Mt. Moriah, Marshall	Chulahoma	N F Metts	C C Anderson, A W Hardin, John Thomas,	8			1					35			5.75							1.50	4	H C Baldwin.
Mt. Pisgah, Tate	Cypress	H J Legge	J H Tyre, N B Collier, B M Matthews,	8		2	4	4	7			245		14.05	21.15	30.85						2.25	2	A J Everson.
Mt. Pleasant, Marshall	Mt. Pleasant	G W Floyd	W J Coopwood, Eddie Baldwyn,					1		1		69			12.35	12.85						.50	1	V C Lewis.
Mt. Zion, Tate	Independence	J E Barnett	H W McKinnon, N P House, A J Evenson, W P Ozment,	2	4							72		2.91	2 91	2 91						.70	1	J H Collins.
New Hope, Lafayette	Pura			6			1	2	1			47		13.00	13.50	14 50						1.50	1	C E Emerson.
New Hope, Tate	Cockrum	J W Sturdivant	H L Bledsoe, D R Meadows, J R Pryor,	1					1	1		109		8.50	22.60	59.25		8.00				1.50	3	J H Williams.
New Prospect, DeSoto	Lewisburgh	G W Potter	W W Cherry, N E Lynch, J A Smith,					1		1		35			2.60	5.0						.75	2	M Eckols.
Oak Grove, DeSoto	Cub Lake	N W P Bacon	Z H Nail, T P Janney,				1	1	3	2	1	36	3.20	7.25	2.50	13.50					7.30	1.00	1	E L Harris.
Peach Creek, Panola	Melrose	H W Rocket	T F Keating, E H Keating, H H Parnell,	2				9			1	23										.90	2	C A Henley.
Philadelphia, Marshall	Orion	G W Floyd	Adran Jones, W W Perry, A E Russell,		2	1		1				63	5.00									1.00	3	R H Ellis
Pleasant Grove, Marshall	Red Banks	W I Hargiss	T L Harris, J H Norman, W A Sisco,		1	1		4				65	5.00	5.00	4.00	3.86		1.30				1.00	3	A D Turney.
Pleasant Hill, DeSoto	Pleasant Hill	W A Lusk	D M Bass, R S Payne, G Q Williams,	1	3			6		2	1	111		34.60	34.00	34.60	5.00		5.00		3.00		2	L F Rainwater.
Pleasant View, Tate	Thyatira	N F Metts	W T Aiken, Sidney Watkins, Tom Carter,	1	7			7		3		203		45.00	40.00	45 00		25·00				2.00	1 2 3	
Salem, Tate	Cypress	M J Derrick	J A Price, A G Mabry, A D Turney,		3	1		4	7	1		84		15.00	7.50	17.50	5.00				7.00		1 3	J A McCargo.
Sardis, Panola	Sardis	A A Lomax	J O Askew, L F Rainwater,	2																				
Senatobia, Tate	Senatobia	L S Foster	I W Wright, Judson Wright, J W Echols,		4	3			4	1		100	12.15		5.65							.75	2	R D Wilson.
State Line, DeSoto	Olive Branch	J A Lee	R S Flynn, G W Pace, A P Brigance, H F Buchanan,	1	3			8	2			57		2.50	5.00	24 35						1.15	4	G W Young.
Strayhorn, Tate	Strayhorn			4				3	5			47	4.00		3.75	5.70		2.50				1.00		W A Gaulding.
Tyro, Tate	Tyro	J W Sturdivant	G T Aiken, R J Barnett, R D Wilson,													3.80				2.30	1.60	1.00	4	M G Nelson.
Union, Panola	Lespideza	J W Sturdivant	D G Young, J J Andrews, G W Johnson, D F Smith,																					
Unity, Panola	Como	M J Derrick	M J Derrick, J D Myers, W A Gaulding,																					
White Oak Grove, Panola	Longtown	H J Legge	M G Nelson, J Merideth, R N Holcomb,																					
				172	83	20	31	109	57	32	5	3162	$72 50	$390.21	$410.46	$616.67	$10.00	$105.30	$15.00	$16.41	$63.20	$47.50		